

**STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION/BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING**

**August 3, 2015**

The special joint meeting of the Stonington Board of Education and Board of Selectmen was called to order by First Selectman George Crouse, at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Administration Building. Members present were Board of Education members, Frank Todisco, BOE Chairman, Deborah Downie, Secretary, Alisa Morrison, Alexa Garvey, Craig Esposito, Faith Leitner, and Terry Stefanski; Board of Selectmen members, First Selectman George Crouse, Michael Spellman, and Rob Simmons.

Also present were Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent of Schools, Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary and interested citizens.

**Discuss and Approve: Agreement for Initial Study and Development of Pilot Program**

First Selectman George Crouse reviewed a brief history of the timeline of the pilot program where communication was shared between Fran Hoffman, the BOE, and Town. First Selectmen Crouse also reported that Fran Hoffman, her two colleagues along with BOE members were excited about the pilot program and noted that meeting was established to review and approve an MOU between the CUSH, the Town, and the BOE to start the pilot program. First Selectmen Crouse then turned the meeting over to Frank Todisco, BOE Chairman, who then asked Dr. Van Riley to review the MOU.

Dr. Van Riley thanked both Boards for their participation and explained this evening the Boards will be reviewing the initial study and pilot program in order to get the program started as soon as possible. Dr. Riley noted the district has been working with Chip Osborne for several years and the district wants to move to this approach. Dr. Riley also noted that funding of \$20,000 has been allocated for the program in two parts, part one for testing and part two monitoring of program. Dr. Riley explained a task force would be established and comprised of Bill King, Barbara McKrell, Chip Osborne, and himself who will meet on a monthly basis and report information on progress of the program.

Frank Todisco commented until the study is completed they would not know the financial needs. Dr. Riley agreed but also confirmed the district has some funds already available and Mr. Osborne will be available to help monitor.

Rob Simmons thanked Dr. Riley and everyone working on this project and continued by noting the school is a good location for this program and addresses the important issue of how we treat our fields. Mr. Simmons also commented that communication on this program with the public is really important. Mr. Simmons had questions on the number of people in the task force and who those individuals will be. Dr. Riley explained the primary contact would be Bill King, along with Barbara McKrell and Fran Hoffman. Mr. Simmons replied that he feels it would be better to have a larger group. Mr. Simmons also reviewed how the funding would be allocated for this by summarizing that \$10,000 will go to improvements on the infield, baseline, and pitcher's mound, \$5,000 will cover Mr. Osborne's recommendations, and the town will contribute \$5,650.

A community member had questions on the town contribution as it relates to the total funding of \$20,000.

Alisa Morrison commented the task force could be comprised of either more interested people or just limited to Bill King and the Town. Ms. Morrison had questions on the proposal.

Mr. Chris Freeman, President of CUSH recapped the proposal and pilot program and concurred that communication is critical and that his organization will endorse this program.

Faith Leitner asked if the Boards researched other organizations before selecting CUSH. Mr. Simmons responded Mr. Osborne came at Fran Hoffman's request and it seemed like a good fit for the district and town.

The following motion was made by Board of Selectmen member Michael Spellman and seconded by First Selectmen George Crouse:

**Motion 1: To set forth the Agreement for Initial Study and Development of Pilot Program**

Aye: All

Rob Simmons noted the following changes to the MOU; the word "administration" will be taken out as follows:

*In order to facilitate positive communications and oversight of this pilot project, the Boards hereby establish an **administrative-task force** with the following directions. The task force shall:*

- 1) *Consist of ~~administrative~~ representative(s) from the District and the Town, and representative(s) from CUSH.*

The following motion was made by Board of Education members Alisa Morrison and seconded by Faith Leitner:

**Motion 2: To set forth the Agreement for Initial Study and Development of Pilot Program**

Aye: All

**Comments from Citizens**

Mr. Chris Freeman, President of CUSH thanked both Boards for moving in this direction.

Ashley Gillece requested an item be placed on the next Board of Selectmen agenda.

A community member asked what were the major differences between the IPM and the organic program. Mr. Chris Freeman, President of CUSH explained the differences in these two programs.

The following motion was made by First Selectmen George Crouse and seconded by Board of Education Chairman, Frank Todisco:

**Motion 3: To adjourn at 7:30 pm**

  
Deborah Downie, Board Secretary